An-Nisaa'

Lajna Imā'illah Canada

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Translation from Urdu Couplets, written by the Promised Messiah[as]:

We have been granted righteousness by that Friend;
It is not from us; for it is a gift of God.

Strive hard if you are truthful and sincere;
So that you attain righteousness, which is the prerequisite to communion with the Beloved (Liqa).

This is the mirror which reflects the Creator;
This alone sharpens the sword of prayer.

The root of every virtue is the fear of God (Ittiqa);
If this root is intact, everything will remain intact.

This alone is the hallmark of the lofty status of saints;
What more do they have, except righteousness?

Fear Him O friends! He is the All-Seeing God;
If you ponder over it, even this world is the place of reward and punishment

He granted me this reward because of righteousness
Glory be to Him, Who put my enemies to shame.

What a wonderful gem is Taqwa!
Blessed is he who practices Taqwa.

Listen! The essence of Islām is Taqwa!
Love of God is the wine and Taqwa is the goblet.

Muslims! Live Taqwa in full;
Where is faith, if one is deficient in Taqwa?

This wealth, O God, You have granted me;
Glory be to Him, Who put my enemies to shame.

{Durre Samīn Urdu}

CONTENTS

Pearls of Wisdom 01

A Note from the Editor 02

Words of the Promised Messiah[as] 04

Friday Sermon Summary 05

The Blessings and Benefits of Lajna Ijtimā‘ 09

Tabligh Ideas for Lajna and Nāsirāt 11

The Account of an Interesting Conversation 12

Modern Social Evils 15

Poem: Guide us on the Right Path 16

Report: National and Local Events 17

39th Annual National Convention Of Canada 2015 18

Report of 39th Annual National Ijtimā‘ 21

Annual National Ijtimā‘ Lajna Imā'illah Canada Competition Results 23

Local Event(s) 25

National Nāsirāt Ijtimā Report 28

Nāsirāt Corner 29

We love Hearing from You!

Please send us your comments or submissions via email at: annisaa@lajna.ca

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Pearls of Wisdom

The Holy Qur'ān

O children of Adam! We have indeed sent down to you raiment to cover your shame, and to be an elegant dress; but the raiment of **righteousness** - that is the best. That is one of the Signs of Allāh, that they may remember. [7:27]
(English Translation by Hazrat Maulvi Sher Ali[ra])

يٰبَنِيْٓ اٰدَمَ قَدْ اَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا
يُّوَارِيْ سَوْاٰتِكُمْ وَرِيْشًا ؕ وَلِبَاسُ
التَّقْوٰى ۙ ذٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ ؕ ذٰلِكَ مِنْ اٰيٰتِ اللّٰهِ
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُوْنَ ﴿۲۷﴾

Hadīth

Saying of the Holy Prophet[sa]

Narrated by Hadrat Abū Hurairah, Allāh be pleased with him: Said the Prophet of Allāh (peace be on him and blessings of Allāh):
"Allāh does not see towards your shapes and your wealth but He sees towards your hearts and your actions." (Muslim).

عَنْ اَبِيْ هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ اِلٰى صُوَرِكُمْ
وَاَمْوَالِكُمْ وَلٰكِنْ يَّنْظُرُ اِلٰى قُلُوْبِكُمْ وَ
اَعْمَالِكُمْ (مسلم)

Commentary:

In this Hadīth, the Holy Prophet (peace be on him and blessings of Allāh) has mentioned two things which, in spite of being gifts of God, can and [do] become, at times, causes of big trial for both men and women. Of these, one is physical beauty and comeliness which becomes, generally for women, a source of great trouble. The second is wealth and affluence which generally put men to a lot of test and temptation. Citing both these as examples, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him!) said that while, without a doubt, they were great gifts of God, but Muslims should take note that Allāh does not judge the worth of people by His appraisal of the beauty of women or of wealth of men but that He sees towards their heads and hearts which are the source and repositories for human thoughts and feelings and then He sees towards their deeds which are the products of their thoughts and feelings.
(Forty Gems of Beauty by Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmed, Translated into English by Nafisur Rahmān A. G. Soofī, pg. 41-42)

A Note from the Editor

Verily, Allāh is with those who are ***righteous*** *and those who do good. [16:129]*

The root of every virtue is the fear of God (Ittiqa);
If this root is intact, everything will remain intact.
~(Durre Samīn)

The second verse of this couplet was revealed to the Promised Messiah[as] by Allāh the Almighty when he was composing this couplet. What is *righteousness* – in simpler words, righteousness is fearing God, so that one does not incur His displeasure. A claimant of love is always desirous of keeping her beloved happy. Similarly, when one loves her Creator and Benefactor, she wants to ensure that He is always pleased by her, and avoids those pathways which could lead to His displeasure – that is called righteousness. An analogy is given of a traveller, who while on an arduous journey, is always mindful of keeping her garment safe from the thorns and wild bushes which are in abundance along the way. Similarly, a righteous person journeys through life, protecting herself from those deeds which can tear her spiritual garment.

The Promised Messiah[as] called *righteousness* the root of all good deeds – so essentially if a deed is carried out to please Allāh, then that deed is definitely virtuous. Just like any tree, if it's roots are intact and healthy, then the tree is viable and healthy – similarly the tree of good deeds would always flourish if the root of righteousness are intact.

Righteousness is the foremost quality that is required to attain nearness to God and increasing one's spiritual knowledge. One cannot excel in her spiritual journeys, unless she possesses the jewel of righteousness.

The Promised Messiah[as] says: "On the other hand righteousness is an essential condition for heavenly learning and for acquiring knowledge of the mysteries of the Holy Qur'ān. For this purpose sincere repentance is needed. For the door of Qur'ānic knowledge is not opened until a seeker of it carries the burden of Divine commands with perfect humility and meekness and turns to Him humbly, trembling before His glory and His might. Without these he cannot obtain from the Holy Qur'ān the means of fostering those qualities and faculties which generate delight and comfort for the soul. The Holy Qur'ān is the Book of God and its knowledge is in the hand of God; thus righteousness is the ladder for the acquisition of such knowledge." (Malfuzāt, vol. I, pp. 426)

May Allāh enable all of us, the followers of the Promised Messiah[as] to attain the noble quality of righteousness so we can attain nearness to Allāh! Amīn!

In this issue of An-Nisaa', you will find a variety of articles including *The Blessings and Benefits of Lajna Ijtimā', Tablīgh Ideas for Lajna and Nāsirāt* and Reports of National and Local events. Please continue to write for An-Nisaa'. For any suggestions and concerns, please contact us at annisaa@lajna.ca.

Sadiqa Hifsa

Correction in Special Issue of An-Nisaa'

The Editorial Board of An-Nisaa' sincerely apologizes to the following researchers of Special Edition of An-Nisaa' **on Ten Years of Khilafat Khamisah 2003-2013 :**

1. Anam Jamshed of Saskatoon who is the lead author of the article on page 190 of English side: 'Translations of the Holy Qur'ān in various languages of the World from 2003-2013'. Her name was not included at the top of the article by mistake.
2. Fozia Khawaja of Edmonton: is the lead author of Urdu article on page 173: 'Establishment of New Jamā'ats'. Her name was not included at the top of article by mistake.
3. Kousar Tanweer Asif, President Montreal Center: is the co-author of English article on Official Ahmadiyya Websites on page 111 and Urdu article Al-Islām websites on page 117. Her team members include Sehrish Khan of Montreal and Subh-e-Zafar Amina.

We regretfully apologize to these authors and pray that Allāh Almighty reward them manifold. May Allāh cover our shortcomings. Amin.

~Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat (National Secretary Ishā'at)

Why participate in Jihād of the Pen?

The Promised Messiah[as] has said:

"God has willed that in this age the pen should replace the sword and the enemy should be vanquished by the written word . . . (you should) certainly realize that the need of the time is not of the sword but of the pen." *(Malfuzāt, Vol. I, pp. 59-60)*

Hazrat Khalīfatul Masīh[aa] V has said:

"We firmly believe in Jihād, however the type of Jihād required in the modern era has changed. At this time no Government or organization is physically attacking Islām in the name of religion. If Islām is being attacked today it is not by the sword but through the press, through the media and through preaching. And so it is the need of the time that we respond using the very same means. That is what the Promised Messiah taught - to fight with our pens and not with our swords." *(The concluding address at the 29th Annual Convention of Australia on October 6, 2013)*

Extracts taken from The Essence of Islām, Volume 2, pages 327-348, translated by Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (2007 Edition), accessed from www.alislam.org

RIGHTEOUSNESS

In the Holy Qur'ān more emphasis has been laid on virtue and righteousness than on any other commandment. The reason for this is that righteousness bestows the strength to resist all vice and urges progress towards all good. Righteousness is in all circumstances a charm that guarantees security and is a citadel for safeguarding against all harm. A righteous person can avoid many vain and harmful contentions that often lead other people to ruin. They sow the seed of dissension among the people through their hasty actions and suspicions and lay themselves open to objection. [Ayyamus-Sulh, Ruhāni Khazā'in, vol. 14, p. 342]

Elements of Righteousness

There are many elements in righteousness. It is righteousness to avoid pride and self-esteem and to refrain from unlawful acquisition and ill manners. A person who displays courtesy and good manners converts his enemies into friends. [Malfuzāt, vol. I, p. 81]

Blessed is the one who adopts righteousness in a time of success and prosperity and most unfortunate is one who does not turn to righteousness after stumbling. [Malfuzāt, vol. I, p. 157]

The spiritual beauty of man is to walk along all the finer ways of righteousness. They are the attractive features of spiritual beauty. It is obvious that to be mindful of the trusts of God Almighty, and to fulfil all the covenants of faith, and to employ all faculties and limbs both overt, like eyes and ears and hands and feet and others like them, and those that are covert, like the mind and other faculties and qualities, on their proper occasions and to restrain them from coming into action on improper occasions, and to be warned against the subtle attacks of vice and to be mindful of the rights of one's fellow beings, is the way of perfecting one's spiritual beauty. God Almighty has in the Holy Qur'ān designated righteousness as a raiment. Libas-ut-taqwa is an expression of the Holy Qur'ān. This is an indication that spiritual beauty and spiritual ornament are achieved through righteousness. Righteousness means that one must be mindful even of the smallest details of the Divine trusts and covenants and also of all the trusts and covenants of one's fellow beings, as far as it may be possible. That is, one must try to fulfil, to the best of one's ability, all the requirements in their minutest details. [Brahin--Ahmadiyya, Part V, Ruhāni Khazā'in, vol. 21, pp. 209-210]

Friday Sermon Summary

The Essence of being a true Ahmadī Muslim

This Friday sermon was delivered from Masjid Noor Nunspeet, Holland, on October 9, 2015. Below is a summary of what Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper!) said.

Majority of Ahmadīs here are either those who were born as Ahmadīs or those whose families accepted Ahmadiyyat when they were very small children and as such they grew up in Ahmadī environment. Also, most of these people are of Pakistani origin who live here and have been granted citizenship of this country because upon their arrival here they reported that they were/are not allowed freedom of religion according to the teachings of Islām in Pakistan. Some of these people would have had directly faced court proceedings [in Pakistan]. Thus, majority of people here have been granted permission to reside owing to the compassion of the [Dutch] government because they have declared themselves as Ahmadīs. This declarations also places responsibility on you. Those Ahmadīs who have come here by virtue of their academic or other expertise and are associated with the Jamā'at are also not exempt from this. New Ahmadīs who join the Jamā'at, and are convinced of the claim of the Promised Messiah[as] are also bound to fulfil the dues of Bai'at. In the sight of God they are not exempt to simply maintain that they did such and such because they saw long-term Ahmadīs doing it.

It is important to understand the commentary and elucidations of the Promised Messiah[as] of the Holy Qur'ān and Sunnah. It is important to study these as they are widely available and no one has any excuse not to. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh[aa] said to long term Ahmadīs that they will also be culpable if anyone stumbles because of their practices. With the grace of God those whose forefathers became Ahmadīs have improved their lives after coming here and they should not forget that they are indebted to the Jamā'at for this. As a mark of thanksgiving they should try and bring about exceptional pure changes in themselves and should tell their children of God's favours upon them and how they and their children are going to ever try and fulfil the pledge of Bai'at that their forefathers made. We are also going to continue to teach our children to be thankful to God for making us financially better off after coming here and tell them that in thankfulness for the academic opportunities they have had they should forge strong connection with the Nizam of Jamā'at and a bond of loyalty and obedience with Khilāfat. Likewise it is the obligation of each Ahmadī to always have a strong connection with the Nizaam and a bond of loyalty and obedience with Khilāfat which they pledge during Bai'at.

With the grace of God new Ahmadīs, especially those who have accepted with complete conviction and insight reflect over their pledge and the conditions of Bai'at and write to Huzoor[aa] about this. However, many others who are born Ahmadīs or those whose parents accepted Ahmadiyyat when they were children and who are now more inclined to worldly matters neither generally reflect over conditions of Bai'at nor do

they understand the pledge of Bai'at and are not mindful of God's favours on them owing to them being Ahmadīs. This in spite of Bai'at proceedings broadcast on MTA regularly. They do not make an effort to focus on the significance of Bai'at and putting it in practice and they also do not forge a connection with Khilāfat as is its due. This is not just about those who have sought political asylum but this is applicable on all Ahmadīs. The example of asylum seekers was given earlier because most of the present congregation constitutes of those who sought asylum and have bettered their lives, otherwise such Ahmadīs can be found in all sections of the Jamā'at. If everyone self-reflects they will see where they stand. This self-reflection and introspection should not be cursory, rather it should be pondered upon and it is auspicious if it concludes in the affirmative and if not, efforts should be made for self-reformation.

In his tenth condition of Bai'at the Promised Messiah[as] has stipulated: 'That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good for the sake of God, and remain faithful to it until the day of his/her death. That he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connection that demand devoted dutifulness.'

These words place the responsibility on us to have selfless and intense love for the Promised Messiah[as]. Here, he takes pledge from us that for the sake of God we will establish high standards of love, affection and bond of brotherhood and affirm to always be obedient in every good decision, everything for which the Promised Messiah[as] was appointed in light of the teachings of Islām. And this obedience would not only be absolute but we would try to abide by it till our last breath. And the resulting bond will be peerless among all other worldly relationships, including relationships we form out of sincerity as well as relationships we form due to favours others bestow on us. If there could be high standard of love for anyone after the Holy Prophet[sa] it has to be with his true and ardent devotee, the Promised Messiah[as]. Everyone can analyze as to how should be our bond with the Promised Messiah[as] in light of this. Are these our standards as well or do we forget these standards in view of personal interests? Do worldly matters overcome this love and obedience?

Man acts for gain or out of fear, fear of answerability or out of love and sincerity. Those who have correct insight of faith will follow it for love and loyalty. The Promised Messiah[as] expected us to enhance this sentiment after taking Bai'at. If this sentiment is not there any advice given will have no impact. Can any Ahmadī even imagine that anything the Promised Messiah[as] said would be contrary to the Holy Qur'ān and Sunnah? Most certainly they would not. Therefore, every Ahmadī should understand that 'obedience in everything good' means to be perfectly obedient having taken one's love to the highest level and then looking out for every instruction. It is binding on us to look out for what the Promised Messiah[as] expected of us and what he instructed us. Otherwise we will be merely paying lip service. If we do not even know what the Promised Messiah said, how can we follow him? We are also required as an Ahmadī to increase our knowledge and implement what we are instructed with sincerity. The Promised Messiah's[as] advice and instructions can be found in his various books and pronouncements. A few of these were presented today.

The Promised Messiah[as] said: Our Jamā'at should not limit itself to wordiness but should fulfil the true objective of Bai'at. Inner change should be brought about because you cannot please God Almighty with mere arguments and reasoning. If

you do not bring inner changes then there is no difference between you and the others.He also said: Each person should take individual responsibility and fulfil his promise.

To believe in the Promised Messiah[as] on a doctrinal level and accept his truthfulness and silence others with arguments and reasoning comes to nothing if our practice is not right. He said: 'Make endeavours to bring about change in you. Supplicate during Salāt, give alms and charity and use all other means to be among those: 'And *as for* those who strive in Our path…' [29:70] And this results in '…We will surely guide them in Our ways…' [29:70]

The Promised Messiah[as] also said: 'How can it be possible that a person who is careless and indolent garners God's beneficence just as much as a person who uses all his senses, his strength and sincerity to find Him?'

When the Promised Messiah[as] says to follow him and to be obedient to him, it is so that through him we find the paths to find God and be those who garner Divine grace. Be those who offer Salāt on time and with its due requisites and to also give charity and alms to attract Divine love.The Promised Messiah[as] said: Be mindful of two things. Firstly, be models of true Muslims and secondly, spread the qualities and excellences of Islām in the world.

If our own knowledge is lacking and our practice is giving cause for concern how can we be true models and how can we talk about excellences of Islām?

The Promised Messiah[as] said that the Jamā'at should take extremely seriously whether they have righteousness or not.

We should all self-reflect whether we have more empathy with the world or with betterment of faith, both for ourselves and for our children. Do we have fear of God and do we make efforts to attain His pleasure? The Promised Messiah[as] also said: Avoiding unwarrantable fury and angry is also a branch of righteousness.

Those who are this way inclined should ponder over their condition. If we keep these words of advice of the Promised Messiah[as] in view and reflect and ponder over them, they increase our love and bond with him. Indeed, he agonised over the spiritual state of his Jamā'at, he was more anxious than mothers and fathers in this regard and repeatedly advised us in order to take us away from the wrong path and put us on the right path. After reading about this expression of love and cause for concern there is no reason an Ahmadī would not attain these high standards of bond and obedience with the Promised Messiah[as].

It is God's favour on us that after the Promised Messiah[as] He has established Khilāfat among us and Khilāfat is advancing what God commissioned the Promised Messiah for. Therefore, by forging a bond of sincerity and obedience with Khilāfat we can continue on our [spiritual] journey. As the Promised Messiah[as] said we should demonstrate models of true Muslims and spread the message of Islām.

Ahmadīs pledge Bai'at on the hand of the Khalīfa of the time and it also important to fulfil this pledge. Therefore, advice, instructions and programs issued by Khilāfat should be implemented in order to fulfil this pledge. Every Ahmadī pledges at the time of Bai'at to abide by the conditions of Bai'at and obey the Khalīfa of the time in everything good. The task of Khilāfat Ahmadiyya is to further the task of the Promised Messiah. With this viewpoint in mind true standards of obedience will be established and there will be unity and avenues of Tablīgh (propagation of

Islām) will open up. However, if everyone declares that he accepts the Promised Messiah[as] and has a bond with him but then proceeds to ascertain his own paths, there can be no progress. The beauty of the Jamā'at is with Khilāfat. And our bond with the Promised Messiah[as] is by virtue of him being the true and ardent devotee of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him!), we have to extend this bond with Khilāfat as well.

A couple of days ago during the reception following foundation laying ceremony of a mosque Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh gave a brief address with reference to teachings of Islām, significance of mosques and responsibilities of Ahmadīs. A lady guest at the reception commented that the words of the Khalīfatul-Masīh were great, what remains to be seen is to what extent will the local Ahmadīs practice them to create an atmosphere of love and peace. Indeed, Ahmadīs living in the area are under scrutiny. They need to self-reflect as the scrutiny will be that much more intense with reference to Khilāfat. Therefore, it is not sufficient to simply make a pledge of Bai'at. Good practice is needed for self-reformation and also for Tablīgh. In order to have unity and oneness in every place and on every level it is needed that we move at the gesture of one hand; that we obey Khilāfat.

It is God's great favour that the Jamā'at is enabled to utilise modern technology, TV and the internet for propagation of faith. The written works of the Promised Messiah[as] are widely available on our web site and can be accessed whenever one wants. It is also translated in major languages of the world. Likewise, advice of the Khalīfa of the time can also be heard and read and is based on the Holy Qur'ān, hadith and writings of the Promised Messiah[as]. MTA is relaying the message all over the world and this has given the Jamā'at a new sense of oneness. We should regularly tune into MTA in order to be part of this oneness. At the very least Friday sermon should be listened to every week with special focus. Each family should determine if every member of their family has done so. If the wife listens and the husband does not, it will not avail anything. If the husband listens but the wife and children do not, even then it will not avail anything. Every Ahmadī needs to be part of this arrangement that God has put in place to further facilitate oneness and through which the voice of the Khalīfa of the time reaches every corner of the world. Attention should be paid to this. If we do not know what is being said, how can obey it? If we listen to discourses we will be able to carry out obedience. Look out for what needs to be obeyed. Otherwise we will be simply making superficial declarations each Ijtimā' or at time of Bai'at 'pledging obedience in everything good' or to 'make every sacrifice for the perpetuation of Ahmadiyya Khilāfat.'

May God make it so that each family pays attention to this matter and makes full use of this facility that we have been given for Tarbiyat (moral training). It is not just a resource for Tarbiyat, it is playing a huge role in spreading the teachings of Islām. If for some reason the Live broadcast cannot be seen, there are always recordings to avail of and these programs can also be seen on the internet. While they forge a bond with the Promised Messiah[as] may everyone also form strong bond with his Khilāfat and demonstrate models of obedience. According to hadith of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him), may this obedience traverse through obedience of the Holy Prophet and take us to obedience of God and make us seek His pleasure. May God enable everyone to do so!

Funeral Prayer in absentia was announced for our missionary Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal Warraich Sahib who passed away on 2 October in a road accident at a railway crossing near his ancestral village. He was 49 years old.

The Blessings and Benefits of Lajna Ijtimā‘

By: Tehmeena Rajput, Montreal East

This essay won first prize in 2015 Ijtimā" English Essay Writing competition.

The Holy Prophetsa once said that Allāh Almighty has supernumerary angels who rove about seeking out gatherings in which Allāh's name is being invoked. They sit with them and fold their wings round each other, filling that which is between them and between the lowest heaven. When the people in the gathering depart, the angels ascend to heaven and mention these people to Allāh Almighty. Allāh Almighty declares about these people that "I have forgiven them and I have bestowed upon them what they have asked for, and I have granted them sanctuary from that from which they asked protection." By the Grace of Allāh Almighty, as Lajna Imā'illah we are regularly given the opportunity to be part of such gatherings in which Allāh's name is being invoked. One such type of gathering which carries particular blessings and benefits are our Lajna Ijtimā‘āt.

One of the biggest blessings of participating in Ijtimā‘āt is that they give us the opportunity to increase our religious knowledge and educational training in an exciting atmosphere of healthy competition. Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V, (May Allāh be his Helper!), said in the concluding address of Lajna Annual Ijtimā‘, UK on November 19th, 2006, that "The purpose of these Ijtimā‘āt is to enable members to benefit from the educational and spiritual programs and speeches and to rid themselves of any shortcomings they may have. Also, the younger and older girls may participate in various educational competitions to improve their knowledge and sharpen their spiritual capabilities. These gatherings provide an atmosphere that promotes discussion and identification of ways and means of self-improvement." Indeed, every year, Ijtimā‘āt give us an opportunity to learn verses of the Holy Qur'ān, practice and perfect our Tarteelul Qur'ān, research and present speeches on various topics, learn and sing verses of poems by the Promised Messiahas and by other blessed personalities of our Jamā‘at, and much more. This is an excellent way of increasing our knowledge through our own research and preparation, and by listening to other Lajna members as well. We prepare ourselves weeks in advance in anticipation of the day on which we will get to present what we have prepared and see our efforts bring fruit.

Furthermore, participating in Lajna Ijtimā‘āt holds many benefits for our individual dispositions as well. Regularly speaking in front of audiences enables one to polish their public speaking skills and boosts one's self-confidence. Indeed, a study has shown that the more often a person speaks in front of an audience, the easier it becomes for them to cope with their nerves and overcome stress. (Elfering, 2012) Furthermore, Ijtimā‘āt not only provide us the opportunity to address large audiences, but to improve our memorization skills. Competitions like Hifz Qur'ān and Nazm are an excellent way to train our memory and learn new ways to memorize efficiently for the long-term. This training of the mind and coping of nerves can be immensely beneficial in other aspects of

our life as well. For example, participating in Ijtimā'āt may help students to learn and memorize school related work, and in overcoming stage fright and giving eloquent and confident oral presentations and impromptu speeches.

Another very important benefit of Lajna Ijtimā'āt is that it helps in the religious and secular education and training of children as well. It is an excellent way of increasing children's religious knowledge and developing a connection and feeling of belonging to the Jamā'at. Huzoor, (May Allāh be his Helper!), said in the concluding address of Lajna Annual Ijtimā', UK on 19th November, 2006, that "Any society, whose young girls and ladies gather in one place with the intention of spending their time in a purely spiritual atmosphere and engage in activities for self-improvement, the future generations of that society are safeguarded, also it does not suffer from a decline." Furthermore, he says, "Make the most of the spiritual food that you have enjoyed in this gathering for your life depends on it. The life of your future generations depends on it. The life and honour of your families depends on it." Therefore, if we want to safeguard our future generations and contribute in building a healthy society, we must start by bringing about a positive change in ourselves by becoming active members of the Jamā'at and regularly attending programs such as Ijtimā'āt.

A blessing of Ijtimā'āt that is particularly noteworthy is that is provides the opportunity to Lajna members to come together, spend a day with each other and pray together. Being in the company of righteous people is extremely important, and Ijtimā'āt give us the opportunity of doing so. As Allāh Almighty states in the Holy Qur'ān, "…vie, then, with one another in good works. Wherever you be, Allāh will bring you all together..." [2:149]. Lajna Ijtimā'āt are an excellent way of coming together and vying with one another in good works.

In conclusion, Lajna Ijtimā'āt hold many blessings and benefits that may not be decipherable at first, but that improve us and our surroundings in many different ways. By participating in such gatherings, we not only attract the mercy and grace of Allāh Almighty, but also offer ourselves the opportunity to increase our knowledge and improve our personal skills, thereby ensuring proper upbringing of future generations as well. May Allāh Almighty give all Lajna Imā'illah members the opportunity to actively participate in our Lajna Ijtimā'āt, to derive full advantage from its numerous benefits and to become heirs to the blessings promised to those who gather together to invoke the name of Allāh Almighty. Amīn!

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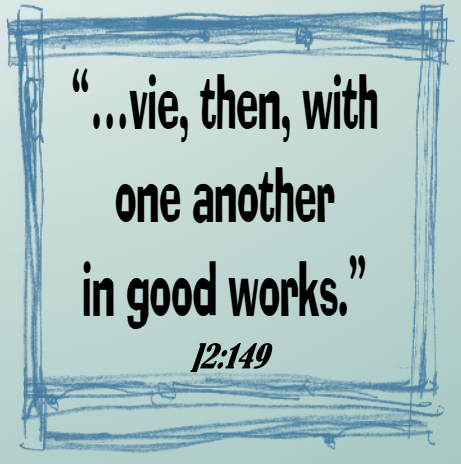


Tāblīgh Ideas For Lajna and Nāsirāt

By: Seema Chowdhury, Maple

Please consider the following for Tāblīgh ideas.

1. Please take your yearbook and grad pictures with headscarf, as these school magazines will go to every household. This is a great opportunity for our daughters to tell the world that they are proud to be Muslim Girls.

2. Try to be an active member of Rapid Response Team, Pen to Preach and The Muslim Times and write positive responses, as it comes under "Jihād with Pen".

3. Please listen to Huzoor[aa] Friday sermon every week, there is a wealth of knowledge and it will help you all to prepare for Tablīgh.

4. Whenever and wherever you can please distribute Pamphlets, remember it is our duty to "Spread the word of God".

5. Encourage and invite your friends and schoolmates to visit our mosque and take them around Peace Village and let them see how blessed we are to have such a community.

6. Be generous and kind and always speak the truth for "Kindness is a language that a blind eye can see and a deaf ear can hear".

7. Participate actively in Jamā'at activities, Volunteer work and Humanity First donations. With the help of all of us we can make these work successfully.

8. Some Elementary and High Schools like Mackenzie Glen and Maple High etc., have arrangements for Friday Prayers for the students, I will request students to find out and go there regularly.

9. Buy souvenir and gifts like key rings, book marks, table clock, decoration pieces with "Love for all hatred for none" and gift them to friends and teachers whenever you can.

10. Invite friends from different religions for an informal discussion and explain to them about Ramadan, Īdul-Fitr, Īdul-Adiha etc and ask them about their religious events.

Let us all take some time to pray for our children and ourselves and ask God Almighty to protect us all and give us the opportunity to be an active and an exemplary Ahmadī Muslim! (Amin!)

The Account of an Interesting Conversation

By: Majeeda Tariq, Brampton Castelmore

My story is about a small dialogue exchange that took place in one of our classrooms at our School and was discussed later on in the staffroom.

As it happens, the rare occasion I go to the staffroom is when there's food around! On one of these rare days when I went to grab some food, Ruth, our drama teacher, told me that today one of the students in her class had asked another classmate why she wore a scarf, to which the latter very innocently responded: 'So I can go to paradise!' [God alone knows what her concept of paradise is at her age (i.e. probably a room full of candy that never gets depleted)!] The one who asked the question got very excited about this proposition and inquired if she could wear one too. She must have thought, 'Paradise seems to be fun and so reachable… so why not?'

Since Ruth was watching me closely as she related the incident - to gauge my response no doubt - I felt compelled to make a comment. So I looked at Ruth and simply said, 'Wish it were that easy!' Ruth of course was hardly satisfied with that. 'Could you please elaborate?' she inquired. This permission to lend me her listening ears was an invitation I gladly accepted. I know ***it's not trendy*** to talk about religion these days but if anyone knows me even a little bit, they know I get really excited about every opportunity to discuss religious matters. So here's a brief introduction to the reasoning behind this common practice on why Muslim women wear the hijāb.

The literal meaning of hijāb is to veil, cover, or to screen. It is not simply a dress code, it also has connotations of moral boundaries and respect for women. Equally important is the fact that it contributes to community cohesion and modest behaviour. The word hijāb is interchangeable with the word scarf, and the meaning is also sometimes extended to a dress standard followed by different cultures. The Iranians wear a chaddar that serves the same purpose, Afghanis wear a burqa, and the dopatta worn with a shalwar kameez in Pakistan is used to cover the heads. Therefore, the hijāb may have multiple meanings for different people according to their own experience of what they hear and see!

The question is why do Muslim women wear the hijāb? To elaborate, firstly, the Holy Qur'ān categorically states that it is the revealed word of God and has been safeguarded by Him for all time. True to His promise, the Qur'ān remains the same unadulterated text today that it was when first revealed about 1400 years ago i.e. not even a single letter has changed. So whatever is said in the Qur'ān is being stated by Allāh Himself. Allāh commands all Muslim women to cover their heads and disclose not their beauty (except that which is apparent thereof), and to draw close to them their outer covering so they may thus be distinguished and not be molested. That's one important reason for wearing the hijāb.

Secondly, all Muslim women who follow this teaching and distinguish themselves by their dress and hijāb enable others to easily identify which religion they adhere to. In layman's terms, the hijāb is a kind of uniform that we wear to express our religious beliefs, much like doctors are distinguished by their stethoscopes or police officers by their guns and badges...

As a general rule, we all know that as soon as anyone adorns a uniform, he/she becomes bound by the code of behaviours/ethics entailed by said uniform. Likewise, when someone wears a hijāb, he/she becomes morally accountable to keep away from all the excesses prohibited by his/her religion, and therein lies the crux of the matter. The outward garb serves as a reminder to practice a moral lifestyle; to wear the hijāb and not follow the tenets of the religion one professes only serves to malign one's faith and defeats the purpose of wearing certain attire.

Also, life very much operates on a cause and effect relationship, and the avoidance of certain behaviours can sometimes have positive outcomes. Which brings me to my final point about wearing the hijāb and the 'not be molested' comment I made earlier. Perhaps when reading the aforementioned statement many of you may have thought: 'Yeah right! As if everyone who doesn't wear a hijāb, gets molested'. There is no validity in refuting this opinion and many can certainly identify with that thought process. At the same time though, many women get targeted, sexually harassed/abused, and/or negatively commented upon for a wide variety of reasons, attire, behaviour, and being in the wrong place at the wrong time being a few. Allāh wants us to protect ourselves before any harm is done, not after any misfortune befalls us (i.e. an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure). The values, attitudes and beliefs instilled by wearing the hijāb enable an individual to set clear boundaries, and thus enable them to avoid situations or people that may adversely affect them, a message that is also clearly received by those they mingle with.

After I had *finished elaborating*! Ruth commented, 'Wearing a hijāb could also save you from a bad hair day!' Really Ruth, after all that sermonizing? Well, at the very least it would seem wearing a hijāb may have practical applications in addition to spiritual ones! Wouldn't it be great if everyone succumbed to their bad hair days and wore a hijāb? Shakespeare would hardly agree to this as he rightly bespeaks, 'Vanity thy name is woman'! Most women would rather die than not try to look their best on the worst of their 'not looking so good hair day'. To wear, or not to wear a hijāb? The choice is very much ours…. *and so are the consequences*!!!

Some Local Events - September - October

- Many Majālis held Īd Milan parties and invited media. **Montreal Center** Majālis party was attended and reported by CTV.
- **Milton Georgetown Majlis** party was attended by 'Inside Halton' and a comprehensive article was published with the caption "Milton Families celebrate Muslim festival of Īdul-Adiha"
- **Malton Majlis** held the Holy Qur'ān Exhibition and 300 attended.
- **Brampton FT** held the Holy Qur'ān exhibition at the Cyril Clark Library in Brampton.
- **Windsor Majlis** held a local Mushā'irah.
- **Vancouver Surrey North** visited Budapest Church and gave Jamā'at literature.
- **Vaughan North** visited women shelter and distributed Jamā'at flyers.
- **Milton Georgetown** visited local church and gave books as gifts.
- Bazam Shā`iri was held on October 4 2015 from 8-10 pm at Aiwan Tahir Hall. It was to honor and entertain the delegates attending National Majlis Shūra and National Ijtimā'. Hazrat Sayeeda Amtul Jamil Begum Sahiba presided this event. Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat, the National Secratry Ishā'at carried out the proceedings of Mushāirah. The closing remarks were given by Mrs. Amtul Noor Daud, the National President Lajna Imā'illah, Canada. More than twenty poetesses from across Canada participated, two of them presented English poems.

Modern Social Evils

By: Quratulain Ahmad, Martindale-Skyveiw, Calgary

Islām protects us from many modern social evils through the teachings of the Holy Qur'ān and the Prophet Muhammad[sa]; and the obligation of five daily prayers. For us Ahmadī Muslims, it is more fortunate as we have the guidance and instructions of our beloved Khalīfatul-Masīh (May Allah be his helper!)

The Qur'ān has set out all guidelines for the Muslims to follow. Both 'do's and don'ts' have been told in this book. The Holy Prophet[sa] has also set out a list of both guidelines and rules for Muslims to follow through Ahādīth and Sunnah. Although many of the social evils of the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[sa] are quite different from today, however, there are still morals and lessons to be learned for our modern society. Both the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet[sa] have put a lot of emphasis on prayer, as it can help protect us from sins and evils.

One of the major social evils of today's society is the free mixing of both men and women, which can lead to a slew of further social evils, such as adultery, relationships and children out of wedlock, teen pregnancies and many more. In Islām, segregation of both genders is practised to prevent from such evils. It also says in the Holy Qur'ān: "*And come not near unto adultery; surely, it is a foul thing and an evil way.*" [17:33]

Greed is another modern social evil that has dominated today's society around the world. Allāh says in the Holy Qur'ān, *"Who are niggardly and enjoin people to be niggardly, and conceal that which Allāh has given them of His bounty. And We have prepared for the disbelievers an humiliating punishment,"* [4:38]. Being selfish, and every man and woman for him/herself has become the mantra of our society. The purpose of this life is to earn for oneself and spend it on oneself. There is some portion of the society that hoards wealth and encourages greed – for these people, Allāh has issued warning that they will receive their punishment on the day of Judgement.

One of the most common thing that comes to mind when one thinks of today's socials evils is homosexuality. This shameful and immoral act has integrated itself into society over the past hundred years. Islām has no place for homosexuality and has warned of this. God himself says in the Holy Qur'ān: *'Do you, of all peoples, approach males, 'And leave your wives whom your Lord has created for you? Nay, you are a people who transgress.'* [26:165-166]. In these verses, God clearly states that he has forbidden these shameful acts. The people of Lut[as] are prime example of God's wrath on homosexuals. The people of Lut[as] were stubborn and would not stop even when the prophet of God admonished them. God finally showed his wrath and wiped these people off from the surface of the earth.

May Allāh enable us to stay away from these social evils and not only make us better Ahmadī Muslims, but better humans in general! Amīn!

Guide us on the Right Path

By: Atia Sheikh, Edmonton

Allāh oh Allāh, the most Supreme
اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝٦
Guide us on the right path that leads to you [1:6]
Make us amongst al-Mu'mineen

You are the One, for young and for old
The Gracious, and the Merciful

We seek Your approval in all of our deeds
We ask for Your Guidance so we may concede

With You are our hearts, so keep us content
Oh Bountiful Allāh, with all You have sent

Allāh oh Allāh, the most Supreme
اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝٦
Guide us on the right path that leads to you [1:6]
Make us amongst al-Mu'mineen
Forgive us as we may get lost in our way
However much vitreous, is all we wish to stay

We seek your assistance in building our emaan
Don't let us stray and give in to Shaitan

Free our hearts from malice and sin
Give us the light, to others we shall bring

Allāh oh Allāh, the most Supreme
اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝٦
Guide us on the right path that leads to you [1:6]
Make us amongst al-Mu'mineen

Make our faith strong, do not let us bleed
Be there with us, in every way we need

As each of us struggle through our quests
Bless us so we pass the ultimate test

Merciful Allāh to You we surely yearn
To You we belong and to You we shall return

Allāh oh Allāh, the most Supreme
اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝٦
Guide us on the right path that leads to you [1:6]
Make us amongst al-Mu'mineen

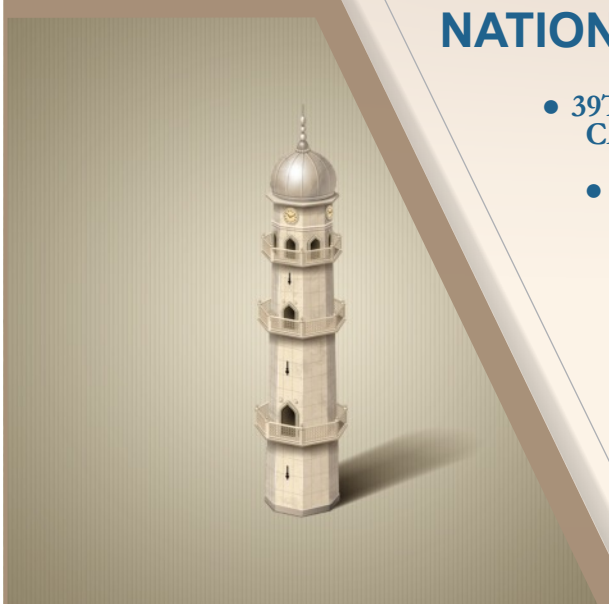
Let Your Love be our Guide and Salvation
Without it there is no better station

What is, what once was and what will become
All is Your will, and to it we shall succumb

Merciful Allāh to You we surely yearn
To You we belong and to You we shall return

Allāh oh Allāh, the most Supreme
اِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۝٦
Guide us on the right path that leads to you [1:6]
Make us amongst al-Mu'mineen

Reports



NATIONAL EVENTS.

- 39TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CANADA 2015
- 39TH ANNUAL NATIONAL IJTIMĀ‘
  - ❑ COMPETITION RESULTS
- ANNUAL NATIONAL NĀSIRĀT IJTIMĀ‘

LOCAL EVENTS

39th Annual National Convention of Canada 2015

Report By: Saadia Amtul Basit, Assistant: Maria Iqbal

By the Grace of Allāh, the 39th Annual Convention of Canada was held on three consecutive days from August 28 – 30, 2015 at the International Center in Mississauga, Ontario. The total attendance of the convention was seventeen thousand, eight hundred and forty eight (1,7848). Of these participants, seven hundred and seven (707) members represented eighteen (18) countries and four hundred eight - additionally seven (487) non Ahmadī guests attended this Jalsa. The Jalsa proceedings were relayed live on MTA and in the live internet stream.

Friday August 29, 2015

The Jalsa started with the Friday Sermon and Jumma Prayers. Respected Malik Lal Khan sahib, Amīr Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada delivered the sermon on the purposes of Jalsa Sālāna. Amīr Sahib said that attending these days of Jalsa should serve to increase in righteousness, humility, love for one another, and the passion to spread the message of Islām to the world.

The 39th Jalsa Sālāna Canada proved highly eventful with powerful speeches and visits by many distinguished guests. The Jalsa was attended by the Prime Minister, Stephen Harper and the Leader of the Liberal party, Justin Trudeau.

Jalsa Gah

The stage of Jalsa was tastefully decorated in the colors of blue and white, with birds flying in the corner under slogan of Love for All Hatred for None. The word Allāh was written in the center with statement: **Allāh, the Source of Peace.** Two large screens were posted on either side of the stage. This year there was a new addition of chair area for mothers of children of ages four to six years old who could sit at the back of the hall. The sound system this year was excellent.

First Session of on Ladies Side – Saturday, August 29, 2015

The first session was presided by Sāhibzādi Amtul Jamil Sāhiba – Daughter of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūdra, Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba – National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada and Mrs. Amtul Hafiz Begum Sāhiba, respected wife of Mubarak Nazir Sahib (Missionary In-charge Canada).

The session started with the recitation of Holy Qur'ān by Almas Asia Sāhiba who recited Sūrah Al-An`am verses 103-107 and translation by Fatima Amatullah Sāhiba. Fatima Sāhiba is a convert herself, who was born a catholic and accepted Ahmadyyat by reading the books of the Promised Messiahas.

Following the Urdu translation by Mona Siraj, and the recitation of a poem by Uzma Naureen Sāhiba, a speech was delivered by Atiya Chaudry Sāhiba on the topic of **"God or No God? A Rational Approach."** She spoke on whether belief in God is rational, and described the existence of the universe, and the order of the systems within it as evidence of a Creator. Atiya Sāhiba argued that more than proofs, personal experiences are what can truly convince a person that God exists, i.e. through the testimony of prophets, revelations, and the answering of prayers. In the end, Atiya Sāhiba concluded that the existence of God is a rational belief based on reason and she prayed that Allāh enable all the attendees to recognize Him and build a living relationship with Him. Amīn!

The second speech of the session was delivered by our respected National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada: Amatul Noor Daud Sāhiba. She spoke on the topic of "**Istighfar – A Spiritual Remedy**."

Her speech emphasized that it is a great favour of Allāh upon humanity that He has taught us Istaghfar to overcome our flaws and weaknesses. She noted that Istaghfar is not simply for when a person has sinned—the Holy Prophet[sa], who led the most sinless life, was also frequent in offering Istaghfar. She mentioned that among the benefits of Istaghfar is also relief from distresses in life, as Allāh will provide the believer with all his needs along with protection from committing future sins. Sadr Sāhiba concluded her speech by reminding members that the Gates of Allāh's Grace are never closed, so we should never lose hope of attaining forgiveness. Instead, we should engage in sincere Istaghfar because Allāh has the power to forgive sins, even if they are innumerable.

The speech was followed by a beautiful poem recital by a group of five girls: Sabah un Nasar, Nida un Nasar, Khaula Mian, Farhana Mian and Labeeda. Afterwards, the rest of the program was relayed from men's side.

Second Session on Ladies Side – Sunday, August 30, 2015

The second and last session from Lajna's side started at 10:30 on Sunday August 30th, 2015. The session was presided by Sāhibzādi Amtul Jamil Sāhiba, Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba – National President Lajna Ima`illah Canada and Amatul Latif Malik Sāhiba, wife of Amīr Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada.

The recitation of the Holy Qur'ān from Sūrah Al-An`am verses 162-166 was rendered by Hira Ahmed Sāhiba; the English translation was read by Miranda Rohoman and Urdu translation was done by Faiza Ahmed. This was followed by a poem of Sāhibzādi Amatul Quddoos Sāhiba which was recited by Maryam Siddiqa Sāhiba:

The first speech of this session was on the topic of the "**Holy Prophet[sa]'s Communion with God"** by Munaza Khan Sāhiba. She recited the verses from Qur'ān: Say oh Prophet: "Say, 'My Prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for Allāh, the Lord of the worlds." (6:163) This statement was truly reflected in all his actions throughout his life. Even though, discharging of his onerous duties kept him busy, still most of his time during day and night was spent in prayers. His feet would be swollen due to standing in prayers for so long. In the end Munaza Sāhiba reminded us that it is our duty to follow his examples in every aspect of our lives because the Holy Qur'ān says that we have in the Prophet of Allāh an excellent model.

The second speech of the day was delivered by Nighat Mahmood Sāhiba, the National Tarbiyat Secretary of Lajna Imā'illah Canada. She spoke on the topic of **"Khilāfat – A Guiding Light in Today's World."** Nighat Sahiba's speech was a wakeup call for those who think that religion is inapplicable in the modern times. Islām is the only religion that stresses women empowerment in regards to the upbringing of children; therefore women must seek education to guide their children to the right path and teach them Islāmic traditions. She stressed that moral training of a child is completed by the age of 12 years and mothers, not teachers, are responsible for that training.

The last speech of the session was given by Amatul Salam Malik Sāhiba, the National Ta'līm Secretary of Lajna Imā'illah Canada on the topic of "**Daughters of Eve and Heaven Seeking Society**" in Urdu. Respected Secretary Ta'līm Sāhiba delivered her speech focusing on Allāh's promise in the Holy Qur'ān (Sūrah Rehman: 46-47) of two heavens for those who fear God, attain *Taqwa*, understand God and fall in love with Him. She emphasized that women must focus on their homes and on developing *Taqwa* as the foundation for their homes in order to build a heavenly society. Citing the Hadīth that Paradise lies under the feet of mothers, she explained that mothers must first reform themselves and then think about the society.

Subsequently, the **Academic Awards** ceremony was held. Awards were given to those who achieved academic excellence in Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities. The Awards

were presented by Sahabzadi Amatul Jamil Begum Sāhiba.

At the end of Lajna's session the Respected National President of Lajna Imā'illah Canada thanked all the volunteers who made it possible for everyone to attend the convention with such ease and dscipline. Following this, the Jalsa proceedings were relayed from men's side

Concluding Address by Respected Lal Khan Malik sahib, Amīr Sahib Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Canada

Respected Amīr Sahib delivered his address on "The Blessings of being Grateful to Allāh". The address focused on the history of the Jamā'at in Canada since its inception in 1966. Video snippets were also shown to highlight important milestones, including the historic visits of three Khulafā' Ahmadiyyat to Canada. Amīr sahib also mentioned plans that had been approved by Hazrat Khalīfatul-MasīhV[aa] to commemorate Canada Jamā'at's 50th anniversary next year in 2016, Insha'Allāh.

Stalls

Several popular stalls were available to Jalsa attendees this year, such as for Humanity First, Waqfe Nau, First Aid, Homeopathy as well as snacks including cotton candy, *qulfi*, and others.

Tablīgh Reception:

In order to welcome the non Ahmadī and new convert guests that attend Jalsa, there was a special team for their hospitality. On the second day, special seating arrangements were made for the guests and a special VIP banquet lunch was arranged. There were 45 guests who came to attend the program by the Grace of Allāh.

Children's Area

The Children's Area was located separately from the main Jalsa Gah, and had its own stage, food hall, and A/V arrangements. Located past the main *Diyafat* Hall, the children's area was restricted to children under 4 years of age and their caregivers. The area offered a milk station, library service, and activity bags for children. An addition to this area this year was homeopathy, first aid and book stalls.

Seniors' Dining Area

An improvement in this year's Jalsa was the dining service offered to seniors and disabled members in the Ladies' Jalsa Gah. Food arrangements were available for these members in a dining hall located behind the stage, with tables and chairs for closer and convenient access during meal times.

Translation Desk

Al-Hamdulillah, this year 39 volunteers provided translation in three languages: English, French and Arabic. During the three days of Jalsa five hundred and forty eight (548) ladies benefited from this service.

Book Stall

This year many new books were published by our Publications department. A set of nine books, **Stories of *Sahabiyat*** was sold at an affordable price; therefore became a best seller. Another local publication was a special issue of An-Nisa celebrating first blessed decade of Khilāfat Khamisa. The stall was always found to be crowded by members wanting to buy new books during break times.

First Aid

This year a team of two nurses and a doctor offered to check blood sugar levels and cholesterol of the Jalsa attendees.

"...You must not rank this convention in the same league as other, ordinary, human assemblies..."

~ The Promised Messiah[as]

Report of 39th Annual National Ijtimā‘

Report by: Amatul Salam Malik, National Secretary of Ta‘līm Lajna Ima’illāh Canada

By the Grace of Allāh Almighty, Lajna Imā’illah Canada held its 39th Annual National Ijtimā’ on October 3-4, 2015, at Aiwan Tahir. Over the course of two days, approximately 1300 Lajna members attended this blessed event. It is important to note that Lajna Imā’illah Canada was blessed with the presence of Sāhibzādī Amatul Jamil Begum Sāhiba, daughter of Hazrat Musleh Mau‘ūdra on both days. Throughout the event she joined National President Lajna Imā’illah Canada, Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba, at the head table, as did various members of the National ‘Āmila Lajna Imā’illah Canada and Regional Presidents from across Canada.

The theme of this year’s event was “**Blessings of the Holy Qur’ān**”. Therefore, throughout the Ijtimā’ teachings of the Holy Qur’ān, Ahādīth, quotes from the writings of the Promised Messiahas and examples from the lives of the Khulafā’ that demonstrated the importance of the Holy Qur’ān and how to partake of its blessings.

The following four events were held at the national level:

1. Recitation of the Holy Qur’ān
2. English Speech
3. Urdu Speech
4. Nazm

By the Grace of Allāh Almighty, 11 regions of Jamā‘at Canada participated in all of the competitions.

In accordance to guidance from Huzoor Anwaraa, the format of the Ijtimā’ has changed in recent years so that there are a greater number of important and insightful presentations included in the program for the benefit of Lajna members. This year the following presentations were given:

1. MTA Presentation – a short clip of Huzoor Anwaraa’s Friday Sermon on the blessings of the Holy Qur’ān.

2. “Etiquettes of the Holy Qur’ān”– presented by Dr. Nighat Mahmood Ṣāḥiba, National Secretary Tarbiyat

3. “Introduction to the Jamā‘at of Jamaica” – presented by Dania Ṣāḥiba, wife of respected Murrabī Sahib of Jamaica

4. MTA Presentation – Lajna Imā’illah Canada events of 2014-15

5. “Introduction to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Teacher’s Association” – presented by Saima Ahmed Ṣāḥiba and Filza Ijaz Ṣāḥiba.

6. “Presentation on *Eik Ghalati Ka Izalah* [*A Misconception Removed*] – presented by Dr. Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sāhiba, National Secretary Ishā‘at

7. “Islām and Cleanliness” – presented by Shahida Khan Ṣāḥiba, National Secretary Sehat-Jismānī

In addition to these presentations, a very informative Question and Answer Session was held in the first session of the first day. The panel included: National President Lajna Imā’illah Canada Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba, Amtul Rafiq

Zafar Sāhiba, Honorary Member of National Majlis'Āmila and In-charge of Ta'limul Qur'ān Classes Lajna Imā'illah Canada; National Secretary Tarbiyat and Ta'lim Lajna Imā'illah Canada. Lajna members raised important questions that sought to clarify important matters of daily life such as the following:

- During Zuhr and 'Asr, the Imām does not recite the prayers out loud in the first two Rak'āt (i.e., Sūrah Al-Fatihah and any other Sūrah). Those following in the congregation must themselves silently recite Sūrah Al-Fatihah and any other Sūrah.

- Regardless of the present day fashion, Lajna members must be careful to observe proper modesty in their clothing. This includes wearing coats that do not have very high slits or "chalks" or wearing such pants that show one's legs (especially during Salāt one must make sure that their legs are fully covered in all the positions of Salāt).

At the start of the second session, National Sadr Sāhiba delivered address on *"Taqwa"*, why and how we can and should adopt it in our daily lives. Masha'Allāh it was very beneficial for all of us Lajna members.
At the end of this Ijtimā' the Academic Awards, Departmental Awards, and Competition prizes were distributed.

By the Grace of Allāh Almighty, feedback from Lajna members has been positive. The various presentations were well-received and members found them to be very insightful.

The success of this event would not have been possible without the dedication and co-operation of all of the volunteers who worked effortlessly to make this a worthwhile event for Lajna members. Jazakumullah! May Allāh the Almighty bless each and every volunteer who donated their time. Amīn!

May Allāh Almighty bless Lajna Imā'illah Canada and make all our events successful in every respect! Amīn!

Bai'at 2015
By: A member from Ottawa East

I take the Bai'at
at your hand
and feel it's song in my heart

I recite the words
with my sisters
and hear the echo
in our minds

I imagine everyone
around the world
and cry to the song
of our souls

Annual National Ijtimā' Lajna Imā'illah Canada Competition Results

The results of competitions held at the Lajna Imā'illah Canada's 39th Annual National Ijtimā' are listed below.

The following competitions were held in the first Session:

Tilawat-e-Qur'ān Majeed: Random selection of 1 of 3 sets of two verses from Sūrah Bani Isra'il

Tilawat-e-Qur'ān Competition Results

Position	Name	Region
1st	Samratul Hayee	Vaughan
2nd	Naima Arif	Toronto Amarat
3rd	Tayyiba Sumbal	Brampton
3rd	Sabahat Khalil	Peace Village
4th	Atiqa Majid	Toronto Amarat
4th	Madiha Nasir	Western Ontario

Urdu Speech Competition

1. غیر ممکن کو یہ ممکن میں بدل دیتی ہے
2. غیبت ایک بڑا گناہ
3. سیرۃ حضرت سیدہ نواب مبارکہ بیگم صاحبہ

Urdu Speech Competition Results

Position	Name	Region
1st	Hafiza Amtus Salam	Calgary
1st	Imrana Aziz	Toronto Amarat
2nd	Attia Warriach	Brampton
3rd	Nudrat Jehan	Toronto Amarat
3rd	Rabia Tariq	Brampton
4th	Madiha Nasir	Western Ontario
4th	Afia Shah	Vaughan

English Speech Competition

1. Modesty - the Foundation for Self-Confidence
2. Love of Allāh - the Only Way to Achieve the Purpose of Life
3. The Consequences of Denying the Promised Messiah[as] (as Reflected in the Unfavorable Condition of the Muslim Ummah Today)

English Speech Competition Result

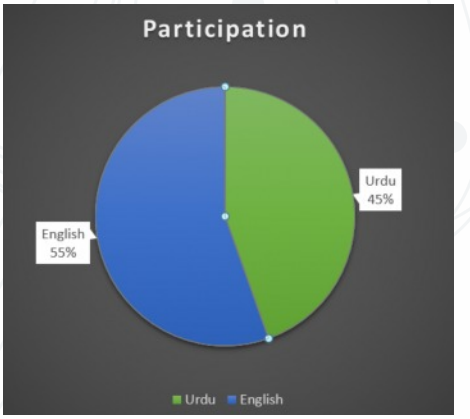
Position	Name	Region
1st	Salmana Rajput	Quebec
2nd	Nadia Ahmad	Mississauga
2nd	Warda Nasir	Toronto Amarat
3rd	Samar Mahmood	Vaughan

Poem Competition Result

Position	Name	Region
1st	Mina Naseer	Brampton
1st	Sabiha Hashmi	Toronto Amarat
2nd	Azra Saleh	Northern Ontario
2nd	Fariha Mobeen	Toronto Amarat
3rd	Mohsina Islām	Western Ontario
3rd	Nusrat Mubashra	Peace Village

Essay Writing Competitions:

- **Total Submissions:** 110 submissions were received for the Annual Essay Competition. Topic of the Essay was **"Blessings of our Lajna Ijtimā"at".**
- **English Essays:** 61 essays were submitted
- **Urdu Essays:** 49 essays were submitted.



English Essay:

Position	Name	Majlis
1st	Tehmeena Rajput	Montreal East
2nd	Sehar Ahmad	Vaughan North
3rd	Nadia Kausar Ahmad	Peace Village West
3rd	Maria Iqbal	Brampton flower Town
4th	Maha Sami	Windsor
4th	Sadaf Rasheed	Peace Village East
5th	Wardah Ahmad	Brampton Flower Town
6th	Huma Ahmad	Peace Village S. East
6th	Sehrish Khan	Montreal Centre
7th	Snober Farooq	Peace Village West
7th	Tahira Mubarika Tahir	Vancouver
7th	Shanze Ahmad	Peace Village S East

Urdu Essay:

Position	Name	Majlis
1st	Sayeeda Basit Baqapuri	AAOP
2nd	Nusrat Rabani Zahoor	Peace Village South
3rd	Wajeeha Qayum	Vaughan East
3rd	Mubashra Mahmood	AAOP
3rd	Amtul Qayum Aijaz	AAOP
4th	Kausar Asif	Montreal Centre
4th	Afia Shah	Vaughan South
4th	Shakeela Tahir	Peace Village Centre East
5th	Attia Khan	Malton
5th	Munazza Wali Sanory	Brampton Heart lake S

Special Competitions

- Al-Hamdulillāh **62 Majalis** participated in the special competitions this year.
- 1504 Special certificates were given to the participants of these competitions.

Competition Categories

1. Holy Qur'ān: Learning Split word translation of the Holy Qur'ān

Categories	Number of Participants
First Five Ruku of Sūrah Al-Baqarah	108
First Ten Ruku of Sūrah Al-Baqarah	49
Fifteen Ruku of Sūrah Al Baqarah	34
Parts 1-2	39
Parts 1-5	21
Parts 6-10	15
Parts 11-15	4
Parts 16-20	5
Parts 21-25	2
Parts 26-30	6
Part 1-30	4

2. Ahādīth

40 Ahadith - 118 Participants

3. Qaseedah Memorization

25 Verses - 124 Participants
1-50 Verses - 27 Participants
1-70 Verses - 21 Participants

4. Books of the Promised Messiah[as]: Reading books and providing a written summary of each.

Any 5 Books - 373 Participants

Academic Awards:

With the kind permission of Sayedna Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V[aa], Lajna Imā'illah Canada awarded Junior Academic Awards to **126** students of Grade 6-11 this year. Successful candidates were awarded a certificate and cash prize.

The awards were distributed by Respected National Sadr Sāhiba

- **28** students of Grades 6-11 of BC, Prairie, Calgary, received their award at the Western Canada Jalsa Sālāna in August.
- **37** students of Grades 6-8 of GTA. Eastern Canada regions received their award at the National Nāsirāt Ijtimā' in September 2015
- **61** Students of Grade 9-11 of GTA, Eastern Canada, Quebec, Western Ontario received their awards at National Lajna Ijtimā' in October 2015.

The breakdown is as follows:

- **18** students of Prairie Region
- **10** students of Calgary Region
- **2** students of Eastern Ontario
- **1** student of Atlantic Canada
- **1** student of Quebec Region
- **94** students of GTA Regions Brampton, Mississauga, Northern Ontario, Peace Village, Toronto, Vaughan and Western Ontario

Local Events

Nepal Fundraiser

By: Asma Chaudhry, **Calgary West**

On June 6th, 2015, Lajna Imā'illah Calgary West held a Fundraiser for Nepal. In the event donations were collected for Humanity First in order to help the earthquake-stricken country of Nepal. By the Grace of God, the Fundraiser collected $4,500 in donations with both guests and Jamā'at members donating generously. The fundraiser was held at Dalhousie Community Center and attracted both Jamā'at members and local community residents. More than 30 non-Ahmadī guests were welcomed at the event. A few Lajna members donated beautiful hand-made crafts including paintings, organic soaps and more. An eye-catching bake sale was the result of contributions made by several Lajna members. A food stall consisted of butter chicken, naan, rice and samosas. A few other activities and stalls included henna, games, balloon animals, organic lemonade and a donation table decorated with Humanity First items. The event exceeded expectations in terms of donations and support from local residents, Alhumdullilah.

Saskatoon Ijtimā`at

Report by: Bushra Aftab, Sadr Lajna **Prairie Region**

By the Grace of Allāh, the Almighty, from July 24-26, 2015 in Saskatoon three Ijtimā"at including, Regional Waqf Nau Ijtimā', Regional Nāsirātul Ahmadiyya Ijtimā', and Regional Lajna Imā'illah Ijtimā' were held successfully by the Grace of Allāh.

Our total attendance for all three Ijtimā"at was 463 attendees: Lajna: 286, Waqfat/Nāsirāt: 85, and children (under 7): 92.

We had the pleasure in our Ijtimā"at to have two Respected National 'Āmila members attend our Ijtimā"at. Respected National Secretary Waqf Nau Incharge and Respected National Tahrīk Jadīd Secretary. Their addresses and guidance were excellent, and was enjoyed by all attendees. All these events would not be successful without all the volunteers and their tremendous work. I would also like to share two incidents of great dedication shown by our volunteers. One sister's brother-in-law passed away two days before the Ijtimā but she stayed with us for all three days. One sister also slept in the mosque with her young child so she could help at these events. Please remember these sisters in your prayers for their great dedication.

An Interesting and Enjoyable Trip

By: Sobia Iqbal, **Brampton Flowertown**

Lajna Flowertown organized a trip to Battle Archery on Saturday, September 19, 2015. We invited Lajna and Nāsirāt from other Jamā'ats of Brampton regions too and in total, 22 Lajna and Nāsirāt participated to play archery tag in Brampton.

Archery tag is a game that is similar to dodgeball except rather than dodgeballs, players use bows and foam-tipped arrows. Hosted by Brampton's facility called Battle Archery, the Lajna and Nāsirāt played three different variations of archery tag. The classic game involved splitting the two teams with the goal of hitting all the members on the other team with the arrows. Once someone is hit, she is out of the game.

At the beginning of the trip, members participated in a training session in which they were taught the proper way to shoot with a bow and arrows. The members practiced at a range while a staff member supervised and helped them shoot the arrows properly.

Our beloved Holy Prophetsa once said "Teach your children swimming, archery, and horse riding."(Tirmidhi). Battle Archery provided the members with a safe and fun way to follow this advice while getting exercise in the process.

Along with the fun, everyone was very respectful of one another, stopping to make sure their arrows didn't hit their opponents too hard. Members spent one hour inside the archery tag arena and, by the end of it, seemed to have improved their aim and ability to dodge flying arrows.

We hope to InshaAllāh visit again in the future and encourage others to do so as well.
We are also very thankful to the Battle Archery staff for accommodating our request of providing us a female instructor and a safe and enjoyable experience. May Allāh reward them for their services.

Exhibition at the Delta Heritage Fair
By Sadiqa Rashid, **Vancouver**

The Delta Museum and Archive Society invited the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at to hold an Ahmadiyya booth on a two day Delta Heritage fair. The theme for our exhibition was "Muslim festival"; the purpose was to express what Eid means to every Muslim, and the concept of Ramadan.

Banners, posters, brochures, art craft supplies and other accessories were designed, as well as a group of volunteers assisted the Delta Museum and Archive Society with the registration. It was also ensured that all our girls observed proper purdah, showed discipline, punctuality and enthusiasm towards other volunteers on duties.

The event was held on May 8th and 9th, 2015. There were 12 members from our Jamā'at who volunteered at the heritage fair society each day. Visitors of the booths were given flyers on Muslim festivals such as Eid and Ramadan. A henna booth was also set up, as well as traditional materials like bangles, clothes and books. Additionally, a bookstall was held. We offered kids to make greeting cards by themselves, and gave them free assorted bangles for their mothers. There were other fun packed activities such as rides. The kids enjoyed the event very much!

The message "Love for all, hatred for none" was promoted. Even the Heritage Fair staff was very delighted to see our booth and took some flyers for the betterment of their knowledge on Islām. Many parents learned more about Islām and the beliefs of Ahmadī Muslims. It was a remarkable and very successful event. By the grace of Allāh the Almighty, vver 300 people attended the event in these two days! Allhamdulillah.

7th National French Interfaith Event
Lajna Imā'illah Canada

By: Salmana Rajput, Tablīgh Coordinator Québec Region

Lajna Imā'illah Montreal organized and hosted its 7th National French Interfaith Event, on Sunday, November 29, 2015. By the grace and mercy of God all Mighty, it was a great success. Four speakers gave 10-15 minute presentations on the founder of their respective faiths. The symposium was attended by 91 Lajna and 13 Nāsirāt members, 50 non-Ahmadī guests, and a delegation of 7 Lajna members from National Markaz in Toronto.

Markaz Delegation consisted of:

- Mrs. Amtul Noor Daud Sāhiba, National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada
- Mrs. Mansoora Rauf, National General Secretary
- Mrs. Amatul Salam Malik Sāhiba, National Secretary Ta'lim
- Mrs. Amtul Qudoos Farhat Sāhiba, National Secretary Ishā'at
- Mrs. Amatul Rafiq Zafar Sāhiba, Honorary Member and In Charge Ta'līmul Qur'ān
- Mrs. Naheed Khokhar Sāhiba, Secretary Tablīgh
- Mrs. Nasira Zuberi Sāhiba

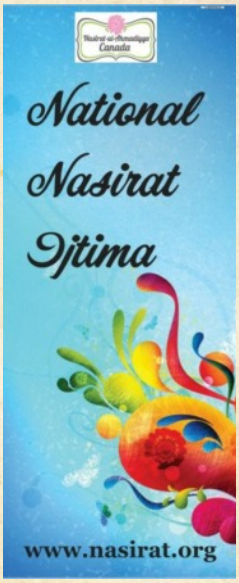
The event started at 11:15 am with the recitation from the Holy Qur'ān and its French translation, followed by the presentation of the Sikh, and Christian Holy scriptures. An introduction of Jamā'at was presented. Representatives from the Sikh and Christian religions spoke on Guru Babak Nanak Sahib and Prophet Jesus[as] respectively. One of our Lajna members gave a short presentation on Prophet Moses[as]. A member of the Universal Peace (Québec Section) group was present and addressed the attendees on the topic of how we can promote peace in the society. The speaker representing Islām gave a presentation on Prophet Muhammad[sa]. All the presentations were preceded with short videos about Islām and that particular religion and Prophet.

A short interactive question and answer session was held after the presentations. This session concluded with a note of thanks by National President Lajna Imā'illah Canada, who also presented a thank you gift to the speakers. The symposium concluded with silent prayer led by the National President at 1:20 pm followed by a light lunch.

Al-Hamdu lillah, positive feedback was obtained from our guests, who expressed gratitude for a successful afternoon and left their contact information for future events. Many guests expressed their desire to learn more about Islām and congratulated us for organizing an impressive seminar. May Allāh bless all those who put efforts into making this event a great success.

National Nāsirāt Ijtimā‘ Report

By: Saema B. Shah. National Secretary Nāsirāt



To celebrate the first 10 years of Khilāfat Khāmisah[aa], the theme of the ijtimā‘ was dedicated to the topic of **‘Blessings of Khilāfat.’** The ijtimā‘ was held on September 12 and 13, 2015. To promote the event and attendance as much as possible a Promo Video was designed and produced. Posters and pamphlets were also compiled and distributed.

It was by the Grace of Almighty Allāh who heard our heartfelt prayers, that our Beloved Hazoor Anwar[aa] agreed to write a Letter to Nāsirātul Ahmadiyya Canada! And MashAllāh, what a truly amazing and personal gift that was for all who heard the beautiful advices of our beloved Huzoor[aa].

MashAllāh, all the presentations were interactive and well received by the Nāsirāt. The topics were as follows:

Love of Khilāfat!

Passport to Success – 4 exciting activities which would gain the Nāsirāt entry to the Fun Fair.

Khilāfat Zindabaad! – a Jeopardy Quiz.

Question & Answer Session - taken from Huzoor[aa]’s MTA classes with children as well as some from Hazrat Khalīfatul Masīh IV [ra].

The Annual Nāsirāt Sleepover was also a great success, MashAllāh! The attendance was the highest that has been recorded since the initiation of the Annual Sleepover!

The Nāsirāt Fun Fair was delighted in by all who attended, Al-Hamdulillah! This Fun Fair provided light relief to all the Nāsirāt who attended the National Ijtimā‘. The following items were included in the Fun Fair:

- Carnival games
- Snow Cone Machine
- Cotton Candy/Candy Floss Machine
- Basketball games
- Musical Chairs
- Skipping Rope

Reptilia Show – It was with fervent prayers and the kind approval of respected National Sadr Sāhiba that the National Nāsirāt department were permitted to organize this amazing show! The reptiles brought included:

- Lizards
- Caiman Crocodiles
- Boa Constrictor
- Arachnid (Tarantula)
- Turtles
- Geckos

Prize Distribution Ceremony – Before National Sadr Sāhiba graciously gave out the certificates, medals and the Academic Achievement Awards on behalf of the National Nāsirāt and Ta‘līm department, respected National Sadr Sāhiba gave a brief Closing Address on the Importance of keeping and maintaining our connection with Khilāfat. It was also instilled into those present about Obedience to Khilāfat which is the only Divinely Guided hand to follow, Amīn!

Summary of Event:

- Attendance: 1st day = 850 2nd day = 750
- Sleepover Attendance: 265
- Fun Fair Attendance: 810

Nāsirāt Corner

Halloween:

By: Maira Tariq, Brampton Heartlake

WHAT IS HALLOWEEN?

Halloween is a celebration known as fun in which kids participate in dressing up and knocking on people's doors to trick or trick. Halloween was originated as samhain celebrated at the end of the harvesting season in Gaelic culture. They believed that on the 31st of October, the spirits of the dead would rise from their grave and try to harm them in some kind of way. They would disguise themselves to attempt in scaring the spirits away. This festival spread around the world especially in America in 1900s.

WHY SHOULD WE AVOID CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN?

Halloween is celebrated by throwing big parties and dressing in expensive costumes which leads to spending lots of money. The Holy Qur'ān says that : **"When it is said unto them, 'Come to what Allāh has revealed, come to the Messenger,' they say, 'Enough for us are the ways we found our fathers following.' What! Even though their fathers were void of knowledge and guidance?"** (Qur'ān 5:104). The Bible forbids witches and satanic practices.

CONCLUSION

It is wrong to believe in supernaturals even if it is for fun. Rising of the dead is wrong and fantasy. We should become more aware that these things are wrong and start following the right path.

Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh Vaa said in his Friday Sermon on October 29, 2010: "Modern innovations have contributed a lot in the spread of many evils. Speaking of the upcoming Halloween festival, Huzoor said: This festival is celebrated in the name of fun and enjoyment, but the fact is that it is a ritual historically based on superstitious and idolatrous concepts about ghosts and witches. Ahmadīs should keep themselves away from such frivolous customs that lead us away from the true faith and are contrary to basic moral values."